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the appearance of the beautiful volume named at the head of this notice. It has been edited by the junior partner of the publishing firm, with his well-known skill, taste, and fidelity. It comes from the University Press, and is perhaps its master-work as a specimen of typography. We have seen no more handsomely printed American book. It has a somewhat antique and quaint aspect, admirably corresponding with its contents. The title-page type, the initial letters, and the ornamental work in general, — specially designed for this volume, and not merely copied from English books, — are of very great beauty, and are at the same time in admirable keeping with the mechanical style of the text, and equally so with its pervading tone of thought and sentiment.

32.—Record of an Obscure Man. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 16mo. pp. 216.

In this book we have a series of disquisitions concerning the African race in their native continent and our own, incorporated with a story so life-like in its details that we could almost think it true, were it not that well-wrought fiction is always less abnormal and more truth-like than fact. The only fault that we can find with the book is, that both its aims are too perfectly attained for either to seem subsidiary to the other, so that we carry through its perusal a divided interest, and make our transitions reluctantly. The story is so exquisitely told, with such tender pathos, with such delicate characterization, with so many painfully attractive incidents and experiences, that we do not like to suspend it for matter of even the gravest interest. On the other hand, the disquisitions manifest so careful study, so comprehensive a grasp of the subject, a philosophy so sound, a philanthropy so true, yet so wise, that they have no need of an artificial setting, but claim to be framed and rounded into a continuous treatise.

This is a description of Boston and its environs, framed in a story, with numerous and well-executed cuts, and designed and adapted for the instruction of children. The selection of subjects is happily made, and the execution indicates an author familiar with juvenile needs and tastes, and capable of making the acquisition of knowledge a pleasant pastime. We would say emphatically that the *imprimatur* of Walker, Wise, & Co. upon a book for young readers is a guaranty of its purity of taste, its high moral character, and its substantial usefulness.

Spectacles for Little Eyes. Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1862.
pp. 198.